

News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

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Massachusetts Seventh District

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MARKEY ASKS BUSH ADMINISTRATION TO REPORT ON PAKISTAN-NORTH KOREA NUCLEAR CONNECTION

Washington, DC: Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), a senior Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and co-chairman of the Bipartisan Task Force on Nonproliferation, today released a letter to President Bush regarding recent press reports indicating that Pakistan may have provided assistance to North Korea's covert nuclear weapons program.

"I am very concerned about press reports indicating that Pakistan may have been providing assistance to North Korea's efforts to obtain materials and technology for a nuclear bomb," said Rep. Markey. "If these reports are accurate, we need to know what action the Bush Administration intends to take in response, and whether the Bush Administration is going to turn a blind eye to Pakistani complicity in Kim Jong Il's secret efforts to obtain a nuclear bomb."

Recent press reports indicated that Pakistan has transferred equipment critical to the construction of nuclear weapons to North Korea beginning in 1999 and occurring as recently as three months ago. If these reports were true, they would place Pakistan in violation of several U.S. laws, including Sections 101 and 102 of the Arms Export Control Act (the Symington and Glenn amendments), Section 2(b)(4) of the Export-Import Bank Act, and Section 701 of the International Financial Institutions Act and Section 823 of the Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act. All of these laws require the imposition of economic sanctions on the offending country, unless the President waives imposition of such sanctions.

Rep. Markey's letter asked the President the following questions:

- Are the reports of Pakistan's assistance to North Korea's nuclear weapons program true?
- Are there additional instances of Pakistani assistance to North Korea's nuclear weapons program of which you are aware? If so, please list and describe them.
- Please list and fully describe the economic sanctions that could legally be imposed on any country that violates the laws listed above. Which of these sanctions will be imposed on Pakistan? If no such sanctions will be imposed, why not?
- Do you intend to waive application of economic sanctions against Pakistan for any violations of U.S. nuclear non-proliferation law, and if so, why?
- What impact do you think that repeatedly granting waivers from U.S. nonproliferation law has had on the credibility of such laws as a deterrent against nations providing covert assistance to nuclear threshold states?

Copies of all correspondence can be found at <http://www.house.gov/markey/>

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